



NEWS RELEASE

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Man Sentenced for Murder, Robberies in Huntington Park

A 54-year-old man was sentenced today to life in prison for killing a store clerk during a robbery, as well as committing other robberies in Huntington Park, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Arturo Bejarano Jr. was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole and an additional 200 years to life by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Robert Higa.

On Oct. 2, 2015, a jury found Bejarano guilty of eight counts in case VA125250: two counts of second-degree robbery; two counts of assault with a firearm; and one count each of first-degree murder; false imprisonment by violence; first-degree burglary, person present; and dissuading a witness from arresting another for a crime.

Jurors also found true a special circumstance allegation that the defendant committed the murder during the course of a robbery.

Deputy District Attorney Steven Schreiner, who prosecuted the case, said on March 2, 2012, the defendant armed himself with a gun and robbed a book store. During the robbery, Bejarano bound and assaulted the store employee, the prosecutor said.

On March 15, 2012, the defendant entered another store where he bound and gagged an employee, Veronica Hurtado Reyes, before he robbed the business. Reyes, 39, ultimately died from strangulation, the prosecutor added.

More than three weeks later, on April 6, 2012, Bejarano committed a robbery at a home where there was a 16-year-old girl who hid in a closet.

Using DNA from the crime scenes and the Combined DNA Index System, law enforcement was able to link Bejarano to the crimes. The defendant subsequently was arrested on June 11, 2012.

The case was investigated by the Huntington Park Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.